

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph on page 3, beginning at line 10 as follows:

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The absorbent panel composed of a first fibrous assembly sub-panel lying on a side of the topsheet and having a compressive restoring elasticity and a substantially flat second fibrous assembly sub-panel underlying the first fibrous assembly sub-panel. The first fibrous assembly sub-panel has a substantially flat portion spaced upward from the second fibrous assembly sub-panel by a given dimension and a plurality of protuberant portions embossed on the flat portion toward the second fibrous assembly panel so as to bear against the second fibrous assembly sub-panel. The first fibrous assembly sub-panel has a fiber density ~~progressively~~ increasing ~~[[as it]]~~ toward ~~gets nearer to~~ the second fibrous assembly sub-panel. The second fibrous assembly sub-panel has a fiber ~~assembly~~ density higher than that of the first fibrous assembly sub-panel.

Please amend the paragraph on page 4, beginning at line 1 as follows:

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This invention includes one embodiment in which the first fibrous assembly sub-panel has a plurality of protuberant portions each extending from the flat portion toward the second fibrous assembly sub-panel but spaced ~~upward~~ from the second fibrous assembly sub-panel by a given dimension. Wall portions are provided ~~and serving~~ to connect ~~each pair of~~ the adjacent protuberant portions with each other.

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Please amend the paragraph on page 5, beginning at line 6 as follows:

FIG. 3 is sectional view taken along a line ~~[[A-A]]~~ III-III in FIG. 1;

Please amend the paragraph on page 5, beginning at line 8 as follows:

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FIG. 4 is sectional view taken along a line ~~[[B-B]]~~ IV-IV in FIG. 1 ~~[[.]]~~;

Please insert the following new paragraphs beginning on page 5 at line 10:

125 --Fig. 5 is a partial top view of the first sub-panel of the invention; and
Fig. 6 is a sectional view taken along line VI-VI in Fig. 5.

Please amend the paragraph on page 5, beginning at line 16 as follows:

126 FIG. 1 a partially cutaway perspective view showing a diaper 1 as viewed from the side of a topsheet 2, FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a liquid-absorbent panel 4 as its first and second sub-panels 5, 6 have been separated from each other, FIG. 3 is sectional view taken along a line [[A-A]] III-III in FIG. 1 and FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken along a line [[B-B]] IV-IV in FIG. 1. In FIG. 1, a transverse direction is indicated by an arrow X and a longitudinal direction is indicated by an arrow Y. Expression "inner surfaces" of the top- and backsheets 3 used herein should be understood to be the surfaces thereof facing the panel 4 and expression "outer surfaces" of these sheets 2, 3 should be understood to be those not facing the panel 4.

127 *Please amend the paragraph on page 7, beginning at line 14 as follows:*

128 In the first sub-panel 5, the protuberant portions 5b bear against the second sub-panel 6 and the flat portion 5a as well as the wall portions 5c are spaced upward from the second sub-panel 6 by [[a]] given ~~dimension~~ dimensions. The protuberant portions 5b are substantially spindle-shaped. [[The]] Each wall ~~portions~~ portion 5c ~~connect~~ connects [[each]] one pair of the adjacent protuberant portions 5b to each other (as best seen in Figs. 5-6). The first sub-panel 5 has [[is]] a fiber density ~~progressively~~ increasing as it gets nearer to toward the second sub-panel 6.

129 *Please amend the paragraph on page 7, beginning at line 23 as follows:*

130 In the first sub-panel 5, the liquid ingredients such as urine or loose passage having been absorbed in the given area of the flat portion 5a rapidly spread in this flat portion 5a. In the first sub-panel 5, a fiber density of the flat portion 5a is ~~higher~~ lower than a fiber density of the protuberant portions 5b and the wall portions 5c and therefore a capillary effect in the protuberant portions 5b as well as in the wall portions 5c is higher than a capillary effect in the flat portion 5a. In this way, the

18 body fluids can smoothly transfer from the flat portion 5a toward the protuberant portions 5b and the wall portions 5c.

19 *Please amend the paragraph on page 10, beginning at line 22 as follows:*

In the embodiment according to which the first sub-panel 5 contains cellulose fiber, a weight ratio of the cellulose fiber to the first sub-panel 5 is preferably less than ~~[[30 wt %]]~~ 30%. If this weight ratio of the cellulose fiber to the first sub-panel 5 exceeds ~~[[30 wt %]]~~ 30%, a compressive restoring elasticity of the first sub-panel 5 would decrease and, with a disadvantageous consequence, the protuberant portions ~~[[5b]]~~ 5a of the first sub-panel 5 once having been compressed by the wearer's body pressure could not restore the initial thickness thereof. As a result, the flat portion 5b and the wall portions 5c of the first sub-panel 5 would remain bearing against the second sub-panel 6.

20 *Please amend the paragraph on page 11, beginning at line 11 as follows:*

The second sub-panel 6 is formed of cellulose fiber. It is also possible to form the second sub-panel 6 using mixed fiber composed of cellulose fiber mixed with hydrophilic synthetic resin fiber. In the embodiment according to which the second panel 6 contains the synthetic resin fiber, a weight ratio of the synthetic resin fiber to the second sub-panel is preferably less than ~~[[50 wt %]]~~ 50%. If the weight ratio of the synthetic resin fiber to the second sub-panel 6 exceeds ~~[[50 wt %]]~~ 50%, a body fluid absorbing function of the second panel 6 would decrease and, in such case, it is concerned that the body fluids might easily leak from the second sub-panel 6.

21 *Please amend the paragraph on page 11, beginning at line 22 as follows:*

The second sub-panel 6 may contain therein fibrous or granular super-absorptive polymer. The polymer may be selected from a group consisting of starch-based polymer, cellulose-based polymer and synthetic polymer. In the embodiment according to which the second sub-panel 6 contains super-absorptive polymer, a weight ratio of the super-absorptive polymer to the second

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sub-panel 6 is preferably less than [[50 wt %]] 50%. If the weight ratio of the super-absorptive polymer to the second panel 6 exceeds [[50 wt %]] 50%, the super-absorptive polymer would be swollen to form gel block as the polymer absorbs the body fluids and the body fluids once having been absorbed in the second sub-panel 6 would be prevented from spreading.

Please amend the paragraph on page 17, beginning at line 12 as follows:

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The body fluid absorbent wearing article according to this invention is primarily characterized in that the panel is formed by the first fibrous assembly sub-panel and the second fibrous assembly sub-panel. The first fibrous assembly sub-panel has ~~[[the]]~~ a fiber density ~~progressively~~ increasing as ~~the first fibrous assembly sub-panel gets nearer to~~ toward the second fibrous assembly sub-panel and the second fibrous assembly sub-panel has the fiber density higher than that of the first fibrous assembly sub-panel. Such a unique arrangement ensures that the body fluids can rapidly transfer from the flat portion toward the protuberant portions of the first fibrous assembly sub-panel and then rapidly transfer to the second fibrous assembly sub-panel. In the panel, only the protuberant portions of the first sub-panel are bear against the second sub-panel so that the body fluids once having been retained in the second sub-panel are prevented from flowing back to the first sub-panel and therefore to the topsheet. In the first fibrous assembly sub-panel, the body fluids discharged onto a given area of the flat portion can rapidly spread over the entire area of the flat portion and therefore over the entire area of the first fibrous assembly sub-panel.

Please amend the paragraph on page 18, beginning at line 10 as follows:

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In the embodiment according to which the first fibrous assembly sub-panel is formed with the wall portions each adapted to connect ~~[[each]]~~ one pair of the adjacent protuberant portions with each other, the body fluids can transfer from one protuberant portion to another protuberant portion, resulting in an improvement of spread of the body fluids in the first fibrous assembly sub-panel.